

Message Text

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P R 132038Z SEP 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN PRIORITY
INFO DIVENGR USAEDME RIYADH SAUDI ARABIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SEDU, ECRE, SA

SUBJECT: CONSTRUCTION FIRM DESIRES TO ESTABLISH SCHOOL FOR
EMPLOYEES' DEPENDENTS IN SAUDI ARABIA

1. SANTA FE OVERSEAS, OF ORANGE, CALIFORNIA, HOLDER OF
CONTRACT WITH CORPS OF ENGINEERS TO CONSTRUCT FACILITIES
AT RAS AL-MISHAB, ABOUT 60 MILES SOUTH OF KUWAITI BORDER
ON PERSIAN GULF COAST, HAS ASKED FOR DEPARTMENT GUIDANCE
ON PROCEDURES FOR ESTABLISHING A SCHOOL FOR EMPLOYEES'
DEPENDENT CHILDREN WHO WILL RESIDE AT CONSTRUCTION SITE.
SANTA FE IS UNDERTAKING RAPID MOBILIZATION IN HOPES TO
BEGIN SCHOOL INSTRUCTION ON OCTOBER 15. COMPANY ANTICIPATES
THAT ITS EMPLOYEES WILL BE ON SITE FROM 12 TO 18 MONTHS,
AND THAT FROM 9 TO 15 STUDENTS WILL REQUIRE INSTRUCTION.
COMPANY CONSIDERED STATIONING OF FAMILIES IN DHAHRAN AREA,
BUT HAS DECIDED TO PLACE ALL ON CONSTRUCTION SITE.
STUDENTS INCLUDE ONE KINDERGARTNER, ONE 12TH GRADER, WITH
MOST OF REMAINDER FALLING WITHIN GRADES 4 TO 7. COMPANY
IS SEARCHING FOR A QUALIFIED TEACHING COUPLE TO PROVIDE
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INSTRUCTION.

2. NEA/ARP ADVISED SANTA FE THAT FORMAL ESTABLISHMENT OF A SCHOOL IN SAUDI ARABIA WOULD BE A VERY TIME CONSUMING AND

BUREAUCRATIC PROCESS, CITING RECENT DIFFICULTIES IN OBTAINING VISAS FOR DHAHRAN ACADEMY TEACHERS. WE RECOMMENDED THAT COMPANY CEASE USING TERM "SCHOOL" AND CONCENTRATE ITS EFFORTS ON FINDING GOOD TUTORS WHO COULD GUIDE SMALL NUMBER OF STUDENTS THROUGH SUCH STANDARD CORRESPONDENCE COURSES AS THE CALVERT LESSONS. COMPANY HAS SMALL EXCESS OF BLOCK WORK VISAS FOR "ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR" CATEGORY, WHICH COULD PROBABLY BE USED AS RUBRIC TO COVER TUTORS.

3. REQUEST EMBASSY AND CONSULATE ADVICE AT FIRST OPPORTUNITY ON WHAT WE SHOULD ADVISE COMPANY. WHEN IS A SCHOOL NOT A SCHOOL? CAN COMPANY PROCEED WITH CORRESPONDENCE COURSES SUPPLEMENTED BY PERHAPS TWO TUTORS WITHOUT NECESSITY OF REQUESTING FORMAL RECOGNITION FROM SAG?
ROBINSON

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